

MINUTES
Substance Abuse Services Council
June 9, 2005

James C. May, Ph.D.
Chair

Richmond Behavioral Health Authority
107 5th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

MEMBERS PRESENT:

James M. May, Ph.D., RBHA
Sheriff James R. Woodley
James Ashton, DOE
Kenneth B. Batten, DMHMRSAS
Angela Coleman, VASAP
Janice Hicks, VDH
Jennifer Johnson, VAADAC
Brent McCraw, VADAP
Scott Reiner, DJJ
Rudi Schuster, DCJS
Del. James M. Scott
Freddie Simons, Prevention Task Force/VACSB
Ivan Tolbert, GOSAP
Inge Tracy, DOC

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Del. Clifford Athey
Del. Robert B. Bell
Sen. Stephen D. Newman
Sen. W. Roscoe Reynolds
Del. Beverly J. Sherwood
Patty L. Gilbertson, VACSB
Rita Katz, DSS
Gail Burruss, SA Council of VACSB

STAFF:

Mellie Randall, DMHMRSAS
Lynette Bowser, DMHMRSAS

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Ms. Randall announced that the Chairman had informed staff that he would be late arriving to the meeting; therefore, the meeting was convened at 10:22 a.m. by Sheriff James Woodley, Vice-chair. The Chairman arrived at 10:45 and assumed responsibility for chairing the meeting.

II. Review and Approval of Minutes for April 14, 2005 Meeting

The following amendment was made to the minutes:

- Page 2 under Old Business: A, change “Department of Correctional Enterprises (DCE)” to “Virginia Correctional Enterprises (VCE).”

A motion was made by Rudi Schuster and seconded by Jennifer Johnson to approve minutes with the noted change. The motion carried.

III. Old Business

A. Status of Last Year's Final Report

Members of the Council received the final copy of the report. Ms. Randall informed the group that the report has not been mailed out yet. She asked that members submit to her a list of individuals they would like to receive the report and the Department (MHMRSAS) will distribute them. Ms. Randall requested that if members would prefer to distribute the report themselves, they should notify her about how many copies are needed and she will get them to you. The report is also available on the Council's website.

B. Review of Plans and Timetables for this Year's Report Documents

Ms. Randall informed the Council that a draft of the overall Council report should be ready by early August.

Ms. Randall also stated that the Council's survey request to agencies that provide substance abuse treatment services and outcomes measures were sent out May 10 and are due back by June 10. A draft of the survey results should be ready by September and ready for submission to the General Assembly by December 1.

Mr. Schuster informed Council that the Program Committee is in the process of drafting the report responding to assignments from the Governor's Task Force to Combat Driving Under the Influence of Drugs and Alcohol.

C. Status of Council Staff Recruitment

Ms. Randall informed Council that she is in the process of screening applications for the staff position and she may be requesting Council members to serve on the interview panel. Prior to selected applicants being interviewed, they will be asked for a work sample to test their writing and analytical skills. If a Council member would like to serve on the interview panel, they should e-mail Ms. Randall.

D. Committee Reports

1. **Program Committee:** Mr. Schuster informed Council that the committee has met once and drafted goals and objectives for the document. The committee will meet next week to formalize the plan. The Committee reviewed the Task Force Report of 2003 and identified as major goals providing effective treatment for the "hard core drunk driver," standardizing assessment and screening tools and developing standardized terms for types of treatment. The committee also discussed best practices and the development of management information systems and analysis of outcome measures.

Mr. Schuster also stated that the long term goals of the committee will be to provide a better understanding for ASAP programs about what treatment programs are available and to publish a treatment directory organized by ASAP regions.

When the draft report is complete, Mr. Schuster will e-mail it to Council members for comment. Council members may share the draft with others as they feel necessary for appropriate feedback. The report should meet submission deadline.

2. Planning Committee: Mr. Reiner, Committee Chair, informed the Council that the survey requesting information on outcome measures has been sent out. A small pool of agencies (DMHMRSAS, DOC, DJJ) will likely be the only respondents. He said that he couldn't really predict what the report will look like until responses are received. Mr. Reiner reminded the Council that the focus of this first year report was to identify which agencies are able to collect outcome measures, what measures they are collecting, and to educate legislatures on how to do outcome measures and what outcome measures look like.

There was discussion about a grant that is available to educate legislators about outcome measures for substance abuse treatment, and about the best venue and time for convening legislators for this purpose. It was determined that getting legislators together outside of the General Assembly session can be difficult. A suggestion was made that perhaps the Council could arrange for such a presentation to legislators as a part of a legislative committee meeting. This item was discussed further under New Business.

3. Budget Committee: Mr. McCraw, Committee Chair, requested a discussion of the scope and responsibility of the Budget Committee. Dr. May stated that the Budget Committee is to provide direction for the annual report, and facilitate in the writing of annual report for Council's review. There was some discussion regarding identifying funding and utilization trends in the report.

IV. New Business

A. Legislative Appointments

Ms. Randall informed the Council that all current General Assembly representatives have been reappointed. She expects to be notified in July about new appointments to the Council.

B. National Outcome Measures (NOMS)

Mr. Batten provided Council members with a reference document entitled "National Outcome Measures (NOMS): SAPT Block Grant Status." Mr. Batten informed the group that the NOMS have been adopted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for mental health, substance abuse and prevention services. The NOMS cover seven specific areas, and SAMHSA will require these for all performance grants. The Department has until 2008 to comply, and the Department is currently able to provide data for five of the seven domains. The Department will receive an additional award of \$150,000 to assist with data quality as a reward for compliance.

Dr. May suggested that Council continue to monitor the development and implementation of the NOMS to prevent duplication of efforts. He also suggested that the reports of the Budget and Planning committees could make reference to the NOMS. Dr. May also asked Mr. Batten to inform NASADAD that the Council appreciates its role in working with SAMHSA in developing the NOMS.

C. Other New Business

1. Dr. May shared an e-mail with Council concerning funds that the National Conference of State Legislators has available to underwrite presentations to state legislatures on performance measurements in substance abuse treatment services. Dr. May stated that Council has several options in this regard.

Mr. Schuster made and motion for Council to proceed with making contact with NCSL to underwrite making a presentation to legislators concerning performance measurement in substance abuse treatment. The motion was seconded and carried.

A suggestion was made that Council attempt to schedule this presentation for a Legislative committee of the General Assembly, and asked Ms. Randall to pursue attempting to schedule the presentation for the Behavioral Healthcare Subcommittee, focusing on the time period after Labor Day.

Mr. Tolbert stated that Council should invite others who would also benefit from the presentation, and requested that the topic of prevention also be included. However, Council members aware of the National Council on State Legislators focus on outcomes shared the opinion that the NCSL presentation was a fixed, prepared presentation that was likely to focus exclusively on treatment.

2. Mr. Simons requested, on behalf of the VACSB Prevention Task Force, that the Council discuss the SAPT Block Grant set-aside for prevention services and the state's match of General Fund dollars. He stated that the issue is that there is no requirement for the state General Fund dollars match to be spent on prevention services, leading to an array of different practices among community services boards concerning the amount of General Funds budgeted at the local level to address prevention. The Prevention Task Force is asking for Council to advocate for a change in state law to require that those dollars go to prevention.

Dr. May asked Mr. Simons to have the Task Force to put its specific issues and recommendations in writing so that they could be distributed to Council members, allowing them to take this concern to their respective constituency groups for feedback. Once this occurs, the item would be placed on the Council's agenda.

Mr. Ashton asked what the Council's role will be in addressing the gray area on funding. Dr. May responded that the Council's mission is to make recommendations to the General Assembly on the issues. Mr. Tolbert stated that the Council's recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly be sound, reasonable and based on political reality.

D. Organizational Updates: Members present gave an update of activities at their organizations or agencies.

1. Sheriffs' Association: Sheriff Woodley informed the Council that he is retiring and has made a recommendation to the Sheriffs' Association for his replacement.
2. Department of Juvenile Justice: Mr. Reiner informed the group that Barry Green, formerly Deputy Secretary of Public Safety, has been named Director of the Department of Juvenile Justice. Mr. Reiner stated that he does not anticipate any monumental change in direction of the agency.
3. Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services: Mr. Batten informed the group that the budget process for this year has been completed. All new funds have been distributed to CSBs. .
4. Virginia Association of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Counselors: Jennifer Johnson stated that VADAAC had a Board retreat in May. VADAAC will be submitting a grant to the National Association of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Counselors (NADAAC) to host an upcoming annual meeting. She will be representing VADAAC at the national meeting, which will be held in Corpus Christi, Texas.
5. Virginia Commission on Alcohol Safety Action Programs: Angela Coleman shared that 18 of 24 programs have been certified in the last 90 days. She is working with the Mid-Atlantic Addiction Technology

Transfer Center (MidATTTC) to plan a VASAP specific track at the Virginia Summer Institute for Addiction Studies, to be funded by a grant from the Department of Motor Vehicles. The track will focus on screening skills, in keeping with the recommendations of the Governor's Task Force to Combat Driving Under the Influence of Drugs and Alcohol. The grant will also support conference attendance by local VASAP staff. There will be a VASAP Director's conference in Virginia Beach to standardize definitions of "drunk" drivers and "hard core drunk" drivers.

6. Governor's Office for Substance Abuse Prevention: Mr. Tolbert stated grant applications for Safe and Drug Free Schools funds have been screened. The comprehensive prevention plan is in final stage of updating and should be ready by first week of July. The Third Annual Kid Safe Virginia will be held on November 16 at the Koger Center. This year's focus will be on gangs.

V. Next Meeting

The next council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 2, 2005 at Richmond Behavioral Health Authority.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynette T. Bowser/s